## REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to an outstanding Office Action dated January 6, 2005, the shortened statutory period for response having expired on April 6, 2005. Accordingly, a Petition and Fee for Extension of Time are included herewith.

I.    Status of the Claims

Please amend claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-13, 15-17, and 19-20. Please cancel claims 22-34 without prejudice. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 17-34, and objected to claims 2, 9 and 16 in the Office action mailed on January 6, 2005.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's citation of statutory authority as the basis for the claim rejections.

II.    Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-28 and 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,325,393 ("Barrett") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,092,078 ("Adolfsson").

With regard to claim 1, the claim as amended recites an information processing apparatus capable of acquiring status information of a peripheral apparatus on a network. An acquisition means is provided for acquiring the status information from the peripheral apparatus. A memory means is provided for memorizing a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time in a communication process for acquiring the status information corresponding to each event on the peripheral apparatus. A grouping means is provided for grouping parameters that correspond to the respective events on the peripheral apparatus and that are related to the time-out parameter

memorized by the memory means into a predetermined group. An alteration means is provided for altering the value of one of the parameters grouped into the predetermined group. A control means is provided, in the event that the value of the one parameter is altered by the alteration means, for altering the values of the other parameters in the predetermined group according to the alteration of the one parameter.

Thus in claim 1, the plurality of time-out parameters can be set and are grouped into one group, and if the value of one of the parameters is altered, the values of the other parameters in the group are altered. This structure allows the parameter setting process to be dramatically simplified.

In the rejection, the Examiner acknowledges that Barret fails to teach the memory means, the alteration means and the control means as claimed, but contends that those means are recited in Adolfsson. At page 4, lines 4-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "it is inherent that the time-out parameters must be memorized in a memory or buffer before it could be changed." Applicant submits that Adolfsson merely recites that the time-out parameters are related to the buffer. Adolfsson is completely silent as to the claimed grouping means and control means.

Therefore, Barrett and Adolfsson, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention of claim 1. Claims 2-7 depend on claim 1, and therefore they too are not obvious over Barrett in view of Adolfsson.

With regard to claims 8 and 15, claim 8 as amended is directed to an information processing method for acquiring status information of a peripheral apparatus on a network, comprising an acquisition step of acquiring the status information from the peripheral apparatus, a memory step of memorizing a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time in a

communication process for acquiring the status information corresponding to each event on the peripheral apparatus, a grouping step of grouping parameters corresponding to the respective events on the peripheral apparatus and related to the time-out parameter memorized in said memory step into a predetermined group, an alteration step of altering the value of one of the parameters grouped into the predetermined group in said grouping step, and a control step adapted, in the event that the value of the one parameter is altered by said alteration step, to alter the values of the other parameters in the predetermined group according to the alteration of the one parameter. Claim 15 as amended is directed to a computer readable memory storing a computer program to be executed in an information processing apparatus for acquiring status information of a peripheral apparatus on a network, said computer program comprising an acquisition step of acquiring the status information from the peripheral apparatus, a memory step of memorizing a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time in a communication process for acquiring the status information corresponding to each event on the peripheral apparatus, a grouping step of grouping parameters corresponding to the respective events on the peripheral apparatus and related to the time-out parameter memorized in said memory step into a predetermined group, an alteration step of altering the value of one of the parameters grouped into the predetermined group in said grouping step, and a control step adapted, in the event that the value of the one parameter is altered by said alteration step, to alter the values of the other parameters in the predetermined group according to the alteration of the one parameter.

As bases for rejecting claims 8 and 15, the Examiner relies on the same reasons that were cited for the rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, Barrett and Adolfsson, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the alteration step and control step of claims 8 and 15 for the same reasons that Barrett and Adolfsson do not disclose or suggest the alteration means
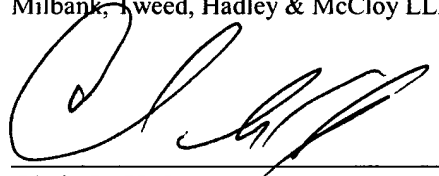
and control means of claim 1. Claims 9-14 depend on claim 8 and claims 16-21 depend on claim 15, and therefore they too are not obvious over Barrett in view of Adolfsson.

As a further note, the group in claims 3-7, 10-14 and 17-21 is completely different than the "grouping" by the grouping means.

## III.     Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

April 11, 2005

Chris L. Holm
Reg. No.: 39,227

Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP
1 Chase Manhattan Plaza
New York, NY 10005
(212) 530-5000 / (212) 530-5219 (facsimile)